

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /117 W

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R 261615Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5981

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 4019

E.O. 11652:O GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, SY

SUBJECT: FAVORABLE TUNISIAN IMPRESSION OF CURRENT SYRAIN POLICY

1. AHMED GHEZAL, FOREIGN MINISTER'S CHEF DE CABINET, HAS INDICATED TO ME THAT TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO BE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH CONSTRUCTIVE FOREIGN POLICY BEING FOLLOWED BY SYRAIN GOVERNMENT UNDER LEADERSHIP OF HAFEZ AL-ASSAD. RECENT VISIT TO TUNIS OF SYRAIN MINISTER OF CULTURE AND ORIENTATION KEYALI REINFORCED THIS VIEW. ACCORDING TO GHEZAL, KEYALI MADE CONVINCING CASE THAT SYRIA WANTS PEACE WITH ISRAEL AND TO OPEN UP MORE TO THE WEST. GHEZAL SAID TUNISIANS HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY THE SYRAIN "CHANGE ON ATTITUDE".

2. IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION, GHEZAL SAID THAT TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT'S ASSESSMENT IS THAT ASSAD ENJOYS SOLID SUPPORT
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OF SYRAIN ARMY AS WELL AS PUBLIC SUPPORT. THIS OVERSHADOWS

WHAT GHEZAL ACKNOWLEDGED AS SYRAIN BAATH PARTY RESERVATIONS
CONCERNING NEW SYRAIN POLICY THRUST.

3. GHEZAL SAID THAT KEYALI HAD VISITED
TUNIS FOR PURPOSE OF BRIEFING TUNISIAN
GOVERNMENT RE SYRIAN POLICY IN WAKE OF
DISENGAGEMENT ACCORD.

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Message Attributes

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